

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 041751

O R 081235Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1265

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0663

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US

SUBJECT: CISCO THREE

REF: STATE 54667

1. EMBOFF CONTACTED SENIOR SECURITY OFFICIAL MARCH 8 TO DETERMINE STATUS OF EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF MICHALKE. OFFICIAL STATED HE HAD TALKED TO ELF REP IN KHARTOUM (PRESEUMABLY WITHIN LAST TWO WEEKS), WHO HAD SENT INQUIRY TO ELF INSIDE ERITREA BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED REPLY. ELF REP KNEW ONLY THAT MICHALKE BEING HELD BY THEIR PEOPLE BUT NOT WHERE OR REASONS FOR KIDNAPPING. OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD ALSO INSTRUCTED HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN KASSALA TO TALK TO ELF THERE BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED REPLY FROM HIM EITHER. OFFICIAL AGREED ASK ELF ABOUT RECEIVING PACKAGES FOR MICHALKE BUT ASKED EMBOFF TO HOLD THEM UNTIL ELF AGREED TO RECEIVE.

2. SUBJECT OF CISCO TWO CAME UP TANGENTIALLY, AND OFFICIAL OFFERED OPINION THAT ANY EITHIOPIAN AIR ATTACKS ON PLF AREA IN NORTHEAST ERITREA DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT RELEASE OF CISCO TWO. OFFICIAL
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ALSO AGAIN REFERRED TO FACT THAT ETHIOPIAN PLANES THAT

HAD "KILLED" SUDANESE (HE SAID FIVE OR SIX) HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY U.S.

3. WISH ASSURE DEPARTMENT THAT IN FUTURE, AS IN PAST, EMBASSY WILL URGE CONTINUED GOS EFFORT OBTAIN RELEASE OF MICHALKE WHENEVER ROUTINE CONTACTS TAKE PLACE WITH THOSE OFFICIALS MOST INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THIS EFFORT.

4. COMMENT. WITH RESPECT TO SUDANESE OFFICIALS'S "OPINION" (PARA 2 ABOVE) THAT AIR ATTACKS MIGHT AFFECT RELEASE OF CAMPBELL AND HARRELL, WE NOTE THAT PLF REPS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE ON MARCH 3 (KHARTOUM 619) EXPLICITLY DENIED THAT THERE WERE ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THEIR RELEASE. QUESTION OF FURTHER USG MILITARY AID TO EPMG WAS TIED ONLY TO POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION AGAINST OTHER AMERICANS REMAINING IN ERITREA. SECONDLY, WE INCLINED BELIEVE OFFICIAL USED WORD "KILLED" CARELESSLY, SINCE OFFICIAL ALLEGATIONS SPOKE OF INJURIES BUT NO DEATHS. BREWER

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